

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 002368  
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 NSCE-00 HA-05 PA-02 USIE-00  
SS-15 /038 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:RSTEVEN:NG  
APPROVED BY ARA/AND:RSTEVEN  
-----078114 052116Z /66  
O 052022Z JAN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 002368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON CHILEAN PLEBISCITE

1. FOLLOWING IS UNOFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTION OF STATEMENT  
READ BY DEPT SPOKESMAN AT NOON BRIEFING JAN 5 IN RESPONSE  
TO QUESTION ABOUT CHILEAN PLEBISCITE:

QUOTE WHILE WE DO NOT DESIRE TO PRESCRIBE THE INTERNAL  
POLITICAL SYSTEM OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY, WE BELIEVE AS A  
MATTER OF PRINCIPLE THAT ANY ELECTION HELD SHOULD OFFER ALL  
PARTIES SUFFICIENT GUARANTEES TO PRESENT THEIR CASE AND GIVE  
THE VOTERS A FULL AND FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR  
VIEWS. THIS SITUATION DID NOT OBTAIN IN THE PLEBISCITE IN  
CHILE, WHERE NORMAL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ARE BANNED, WHERE

FREEDOM OF PRESS AND ASSEMBLY ARE SHARPLY RESTRICTED, AND  
WHERE THE QUESTION WAS UNFAIRLY POSED AS A CHOICE BETWEEN  
"THE DIGNITY OF CHILE" AND "INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION".

NEVERTHELESS, GIVEN CHILE'S LONG DEMOCRATIC HISTORY, WE HOPE  
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THAT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST WEEK MAY MARK THE BEGINNING OF A  
PROCESS THAT ALLOWS CHILEANS TO EXPRESS THEIR DEMOCRATIC  
PREFERENCES IN THE FUTURE, AND THAT THERE WILL CONTINUE TO  
BE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION THERE.  
UNQUOTE.

2. CABLE WILL FOLLOW WITH FULL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF  
ABOVE AND OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WHICH FOLLOWED. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, REFERENDUMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** RSTEVEN:NG  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014